

Albania has made continues progress on anti-corruption awareness – raising, education, trainings and research. Ministry of Justice in the role of National Coordinator against Corruption has continued to raise public awareness in the fight against corruption. The fight against corruption consists of a variety of measures, where in addition to initiatives at the legislative and strategic level, it can be developed effectively through education that aims to create an anti-corruption culture, as well as through international cooperation. In the field of Education, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth of the Republic of Albania and the Embassy of the Republic of Italy accredited in the Republic of Albania, have signed an agreement in order to jointly promote a pilot didactic-educational project (anti-corruption module) in four selected schools in the upper secondary education of the city of Tirana (Citizenship, grade 10), promoting and spreading the culture of legality and responsible citizenship, as appropriate tools for preventing corruption.

The Ministry of Justice, in the role of National Coordinator against Corruption, supports any initiative that it deems valuable in promoting integrity in society and the community, with the primary goal of ensuring the prevention of corruption, in accordance with the Constitution and legislation in force in the Republic of Albania. In the context of raising awareness of the fight against corruption, Albania organizes Integrity Week each December, organizing various awareness-raising activities.

Moreover, Albania continues to implement the Inter-Sectoral Strategy Against Corruption 2015-2023, and its 2020-2023 Action Plan. The timeframe of the Inter-sectoral Strategy Against Corruption (ISAC) was extended from 2015-2020 to 2015-2023, and the new Action Plan 2020-2023 was adopted by the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 516, dated 01.07.2020 “For some amendments and additions to the Decision of the Council of Ministers No.247, dated 20.03.2015 ‘For the adoption of the Inter-sectoral Strategy Against Corruption, for the 2015-2020 period’ and the adoption of the 2020-2023 Action Plan, pursuant to the Inter-sectoral Strategy Against Corruption, and its Passport of Indicators”.

The implementation of the ISAC Action Plan is overseen by the Coordination Committee for the Implementation of ISAC. The Committee is chaired by the Minister of Justice, in his capacity as the National Coordinator Against Corruption, and consists of 10 members at the level of the Deputy Minister from each Line Ministry, who have been assigned the anti-corruption portfolio. The Coordination Committee meets periodically every three months and whenever requested by the Minister of Justice.

In order to tackle corruption, Albania is increasing the number of e-services. A new process for public services has been initiated, providing applications for public services for citizens and businesses on an online basis only. Citizens and businesses apply only through the “e-Albania” platform and public administration employees collect all state service documents. By January 2022, there have been put in place 1212 online services offered online, which encompass the most sensitive sectors and also, the number of systems connected to Government Interaction Platform has also increased.

Related to the awareness raising, The Ministry of Justice in the role of National Coordinator against Corruption has drafted and published the Communication and Visibility Plan (C&VP). This document consists of 16 concrete measures/activities, implemented with the support of donors and partners foreigners in the field, but also with the direct engagement of the technical staff and the cabinet of the Minister of Justice, for various target groups in order to raise awareness of the fight against corruption. The document is accessible via this link: http://www.drejtesia.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CV-Strategy_-FINALE_PER-Publikim@S03.09.2020.pdf

The Ministry of Justice also publishes a monthly bulletin with a summary of the main activities and programs developed with a focus on prevention, awareness and the fight against corruption. This monthly newsletter can be accessed at the link <https://drejtesia.gov.al/e-buletin/>

The capacities of the National Coordinator Against Corruption in Albania were enhanced through the decision of 20.10.2021 "On the establishment, organization and functioning of the network of anti-corruption coordinators and the structure responsible for anti-corruption at the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator", in which, the Council of Ministers has laid the foundations to create the first General Directorate of Anti-Corruption, as a unique structure, nationally for coordination of the fight against corruption, in the direction of three strategic approaches: Prevention - Awareness - Punishment. This Directorate focuses on all functions previously performed by the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator, as well as by all agencies under the Prime Minister that have focused on anti-corruption. This already empowered directorate will have increased human resources and dedicated to best fulfill all the functions of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator.

The mission of the responsible structure against corruption in the Ministry of Justice is to carry out the verification (administrative investigation) of denunciations/complaints for abusive, corrupt or arbitrary practices regarding the enforcement of the law, as well as the identification of officials of institutions, part of the Network of Coordinators, who, by their actions or omissions, have committed violations of laws/bylaws in force, as well as the development of projects and programs in the field of anti-corruption, planning, coordination and determination of instruments necessary for the implementation of policies in the field of anti-corruption.

Officials of the responsible structure against corruption in the Ministry of Justice sign a statement of confidentiality, while the officials engaged in in-depth investigations and monitoring of the Network of Coordinators at the responsible structure against corruption in the Ministry of Justice are provided with a security certificate, according to the legislation in force.